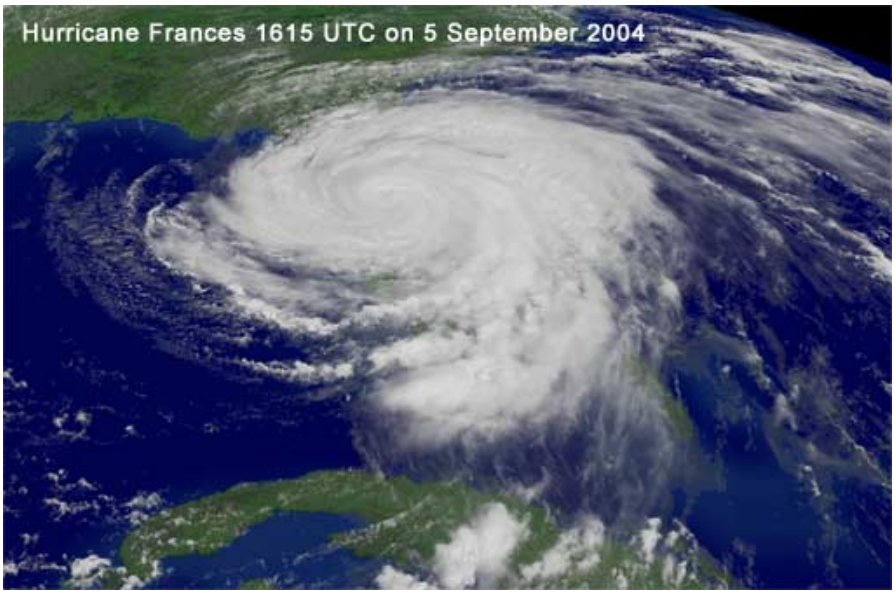
News release

Frances dies as Ivan waits in the wings

Updated 6 September 2004

Hurricane warnings are still in force for the north-west coast of Florida with Frances now over the north-east Gulf of Mexico and heading towards the Florida Panhandle.

Tropical Storm Frances currently has a central pressure of 981 hPa and has maximum sustained wind speeds of around 65 m.p.h., but the storm is expected to continue to decay as it moves north across land. Three million people, who were evacuated ahead of Frances hitting, can now return to their homes and begin assessing the damage.



Meanwhile, out in the Atlantic, the category four Hurricane Ivan is heading towards Barbados and St. Lucia. This storm is unusually intense for such a low latitude, with sustained winds speeds of 135 m.p.h. and it is continuing to strengthen. If the present trend is continued, the hurricane will reach category five on the Saffir-Simpson scale within the next 24 hours.

Latest Americas infrared satellite image

The Met Office is a leading centre for hurricane forecasting and works in partnership with other national met. services including the United States to help give the best advice to the public, business and governments.

Currently the Met Office is advising the UK Government as it plans to deal with the consequences of Hurricane Frances making landfall. Other customers of the Met Office, such as the aviation, insurance and leisure industries, also require up-to-the-minute guidance on the track and intensity of such storms.

Further information can obtained by calling the Hurricane Line on 09003 500450 (calls cost 60p a minute at all times)

More about tropical cyclones

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
University of Wisconsin - Tropical Cyclones
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